

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken against trespass ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government are aware of the encroachment in the Tilpat Firing Range by M/s Leisure Valley Farms and Global Development & Finance Corporation (India) Ltd. and the matter has been taken up with the Civil/Revenue Authorities appropriately.

(d) and (e) No formal inquiry has been conducted in the matter. However, the following actions have been taken :-

- (i) An FIR was lodged with the Police Authorities;
- (ii) Demarcations made by the Revenue Authorities were shown in the encroachers.
- (iii) Public Notice was published in the local newspaper alerting the local people.
- (iv) A Caveat is under submission to the Faridabad Court so that petition of the encroachers for stay of their eviction is prevented.
- (v) The authorities concerned have been requested to take action against the encroachers and also not to register any sale deed in respect of the defence land in Tilpat Firing Range.

Runway of Patna Airport

3061. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the runway length of Patna Airport is bare minimum for landing of A-320 aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether short runway results in lower utilisation of seats in aircraft;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to improve it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) A-320 aircraft can land at Patna Airport.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Take-off weight is constrained due to inadequate take-off runway length available. The useable length is only 6409 ft. due to obstructions and the non-availability of basic strips. The matter was taken up with the State Govt. for reduction of the height of obstruction (Clock Tower) but there appears to be no possibility of the same. This has resulted in a shorter length of the runway being available for departing aircraft.

[Translation] *

Indian Council of Social Science Research

3062. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research spends most of his time in Bangalore which has affected the working of the said Council;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the date on which the present Chairman had resumed charge of the post and the number of visits he paid from Delhi to Bangalore and the amount spent on this purpose; and

(d) the total amount spent on his stay and other expenses at Bangalore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) The Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research assumed office on September 6, 1996. As this is an honorary position, the Chairman is stationed at Bangalore. This arrangement has not adversely affected the working of the Council. In accordance with the Memorandum of Association of the Council the Chairman has to come to Delhi to preside over the meetings of the Council and its Committees. A total of Rs. 2,05,765/- was spent on his travels to Delhi. The Council has informed that while it does not meet expenditure on his stay and other expenses at Bangalore, a sum of Rs. 23,657/- has been incurred by the Council to meet certain miscellaneous expenditure.

[English]

Institute of Environmental Planning and Technology

3063. SHRI MRUFYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :